

Emergency Services Update



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Greetings From The Utah Commissioner of Public Safety

We live in a world where interagency cooperation is vital in protecting our state from natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Federal, state and local agencies representing a variety of public safety disciplines must continue working together to ensure the citizens of our state receive the best protection and response available. One of the keys to such cooperation is effective communication. This new web-based *Emergency Services Update* is our effort to foster improved communication among the various public safety disciplines in Utah. The regularly published update will keep citizens and agencies informed of major developments in the emergency services arena within our state. While much of the news in this issue is from the Utah Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, you'll also notice stories from other agencies. We hope such contributions continue. By sharing our successes and achievements, we will all be better informed and better equipped to meet the challenging demands of protecting our state. We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue and encourage continued contributions in future issues from agencies throughout Utah. Together, we will continue to improve the safety and security of our great state.

Robert L. Flowers

Commissioner

Utah Department of Public Safety

Utahns Answer The Call For Help From Hurricane-Ravaged Florida

Florida may have been thousands of miles from Utah but those miles didn't matter when a call for help came during the devastating hurricane season in the Sunshine State.

Twelve emergency management specialists from Utah worked in Florida between August and early October. The groups from Utah were sent through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES) special projects coordinator Ron Gloshen coordinated the missions of all 12 Utahns deployed through EMAC.

During the deployments to Florida, local agencies in Utah paid the salary and benefits of their employees who worked the disasters. Florida covered all overtime, travel, lodging and meal costs. The compact is a win-win for both the sending and receiving states. In the case of this year's hurricanes, Florida and other southern states received much-needed manpower during the grueling recovery stage of the hurricanes. The Utahns who responded, in turn, received valuable firsthand experience in working a large-scale disaster.

"My experience in Hardee County renewed my commitment to the whole concept of *Emergency Management* as a distinct and essential element in local and national planning and operations," wrote DES emergency preparedness planner Al Cooper in one of his reports from Florida. "In large-scale disasters especially, the overarching professional leadership provided by trained and dedicated emergency management people is what enables all the other branches of response and recovery activities to work together smoothly and efficiently."

EMAC is a mutual aid agreement between 48 U.S. states, which makes it possible for participating states to share manpower and resources in the event of a large-scale disaster. The Utah legislature approved the compact during the 2001 general session. In the event of a large-scale disaster in Utah, similar assistance would also be available from other states. For more information contact DES Special Projects Coordinator Ron Gloschen at (801) 538-3400.

Annual Chemical Exercise Tests Federal, State and Local First Responders

Hundreds of first responders and emergency managers from the U.S. Army, the state and three counties participated in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) annual exercise. The full-scale exercise, held Sept. 15, tested participants' response capabilities to a simulated chemical weapons emergency at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) in Tooele County. Players in the exercise included DCD, the state of Utah, Tooele, Salt Lake, and Utah Counties, the Utah National Guard and the American Red Cross. Ten local hospitals also participated in the exercise by treating mock victims involved in the scenario. Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) were activated during the exercise at DCD, the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES), Tooele County, Utah County and Salt Lake County. The CSEPP Joint Information Center (JIC) was also activated for the exercise and allowed CSEPP Public Information Officers (PIOs) from the state, Tooele County, Salt Lake County, the Red Cross and DCD to practice releasing timely information to the public and media.

This year's exercise was the first time a CSEPP site has used the Outcome Evaluation methodology, which is similar to the evaluation tool used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP). CSEPP's previously used exercise evaluation methodology, Integrated Performance Evaluation (IPE), was recently adopted by ODP. In order to achieve uniformity in evaluation methodologies, CSEPP modified its terminology from Integrated Performance Evaluation to Outcome Evaluation to match ODP preferences.

As part of the exercise, DES CSEPP staff also conducted nine exercise player evaluator briefings and trainings. The exercise is the result of a full year of planning and preparation and allows representatives from federal, state and local agencies to test their ability to respond to a chemical incident. This joint response team has been called one of the best prepared in the state. The annual CSEPP exercise ensures that Utah continues to be one of the best-prepared states in the nation to respond to a chemical emergency.

Federal Officials Praise State Homeland Security Finances

The state of Utah, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security recently took part in an on-site monitoring review conducted by the Federal Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP). Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Utah's financial and narrative reports were verified as being completed and up to date.
- Utah has met all requirements of the Homeland Security Grants, to date, and was noted to be "in compliance."
- Utah was identified as one of the first states to successfully complete the 2004 needs assessment and state strategy.
- Utah was identified as the first state in the western region to successfully complete the required "Initial Strategic Implementation Plan (ISIP)."
- The states of Kentucky and Indiana have been referred to Utah to assist them in their grants management efforts.
- Utah was complimented on the customer service efforts they have provided to the state and local agencies. Specifically, the offering of three different purchasing options (Reimbursement, State Procurement Assistance, Advanced Payment) and the creation of a line item approval system (All grant dollars are tied to line items).
- Marcelino Galvan, ODP Branch Manager for the Western Region, left the daylong visit stating "Utah is doing a great job!"

Federal homeland security grants to the state of Utah have increased each year since 1999. The funding goes towards planning, training, exercise and equipment procurement. The following is a summary of the grant allocations since 1999:

1999.....	\$599,000 Grant (\$237,004 for locals)
2000/2001.....	\$1,422,000 Grant (\$1,189,901 for locals)
2002.....	\$3,849,000 Grant (\$2,822,400 for locals)
2003 Part I.....	\$6,937,000 Grant (\$3,894,400 for locals)
2003 Part II.....	\$18,374,000 Grant (\$14,024,200 for locals)
2004.....	\$27,033,000 Grant (\$21,626,400 for locals)

For more information contact DES Admin/Finance Section Manager Kris Hamlet at (801) 538-3400.

Statewide Mutual Aid Task Force Formed

At the direction of the Utah Commissioner of Public Safety, the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES) is forming a Statewide Mutual Aid Task Force to address mutual aid responses throughout the state. Currently, mutual aid agreements are drafted between adjoining jurisdictions or counties. This task force will create model legislation for the 2006 session that addresses mutual aid on a statewide basis for all disciplines. The legislation is intended to address mutual aid issues of cost recovery, liability, processes for requesting resources and workers compensation. Groups represented on the task force will include: the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, Utah Sheriffs Association, Utah Fire Chiefs Association (urban and rural), Utah Emergency Management Association, Utah Association of Local Health Officers, Utah Hospital Association, Utah EMS, American Association of Public Works (Utah Chapter), League of Cities and Towns, County Association of Governments, Utah National Guard and others as necessary. The task force met for the first time in late October. For more information contact DES Deputy Director Brian Garrett at (801) 538-3400.

State Resurrecting Emergency Manager Certification

In the past, the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES)—formerly under the Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM)—offered a certification for emergency managers who completed a series of courses offered by DES and/or FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI). A few years ago the program was discontinued, leaving no career path for training new emergency services personnel. DES has received several requests to bring back the training and include new homeland security elements in the course offerings. The DES training section has recently assembled a committee of state and local representatives to develop a strategy for re-implementing the Utah Emergency Manager Certification Program by early 2005. The program will be voluntary. In addition to determining the requirements for certification, the committee will also determine a name for the certification that will reflect the homeland security elements included in the new program. DES officials believe the program will benefit local emergency managers and DES staff in their career development and progression. For more information contact DES State Exercise Training Officer Gary Vetterli at (801) 538-3400.

State Reconfigures Utah Hazmat/WMD Committee

For many years the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES) has supported two separate hazmat committees. The Hazardous Materials Institute (HMI) focused on training, while the second committee served as an advisory group to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). With the implementation of the Regional Response Team (RRT) concept, neither committee effectively represented the needs and views of the regions and other hazmat partners. To address this need the HMI committee was disbanded and the SERC advisory committee was renamed the Utah Hazmat/WMD Advisory Committee. The new committee was formed to provide a forum for all hazmat response partners to discuss issues and advise the Department of Public Safety and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) on the establishment of a formal statewide hazmat system. The committee will provide direction and advice on preparedness and response plans, training plans, readiness assessments, program evaluations, training standards and certification and proposed enhancements to the Utah hazmat system.

Membership of the committee was completely revamped to better represent the current hazmat system in the state. The make-up of the committee is as follows:

Chairperson of each regional response team (8)
Utah Division Emergency Services and Homeland Security (1)
Utah Department of Environmental Quality (1)
Utah Department of Health (1)
Representative from the hazardous chemical transportation industry (1)
Representative from the fixed-site hazardous chemical industry (1)
Utah National Guard (1)
Utah State Fire Marshal's Office (1)
Utah Department of Transportation (1)
At-large members appointed by the committee (4)

The committee has met once and established bylaws and elected officers and continues to meet on a regular basis. It's hoped this body will become formalized through statute or rule and have the authority to develop rules to ensure a safe, efficient and effective statewide hazmat training and response system in Utah. For more information contact DES Deputy Director Brian Garrett at (801) 538-3400.

DES Adds Hazmat Emergency Response Officer

To better support the hazardous materials response agencies in the state, the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES) has established a Hazmat Emergency Response Officer (HMERO) who is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The HMERO can assist local agencies in their hazmat response and recovery efforts by providing technical expertise, resource acquisition, coordination with other agencies and contact with clean up companies. The HMERO can provide this support by telephone or may respond to the scene to assist the incident commander. When an HMERO responds to an incident they are not there to take over command of the incident. Their role is to provide support and advice as a liaison. The HMERO is also available as a resource for Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) troopers who respond to the scene of a hazmat incident. To date, the HMERO is averaging one call a day from the field. For more information contact DES HMI Training Coordinator Dave Milligan at (801) 538-3400.

San Juan County Now "StormReady"

San Juan County achieved an important emergency preparedness milestone in September when the National Weather Service recognized that area of the state as a StormReady community.

National Weather Service Grand Junction meteorologist-in-charge Doug Crowley presented county emergency management officials with StormReady signs during a recognition ceremony Sept. 27 in Monticello. San Juan is the second county in Utah recognized by the National Weather Service as a StormReady community. Tooele County received the designation in September 2003.

Started in 1999 in Tulsa, Okla., the StormReady program provides local communities across the U.S. with communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during a severe storm. As of Oct. 14, 2004 there were 798 StormReady communities in 47 states across the U.S., including 419 counties, 365 communities, nine universities, one Indian nation, two industrial sites and one military site. For more information about the National Weather Service's StormReady program, visit <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>.

No-Notice Exercise Tests National Guard and State Officials

The surprise calls came early in the morning on Aug. 31. The Utah National Guard was needed to defend the citizens of Utah and its critical infrastructure from a simulated emergency.

The no-notice exercise tested the ability of officials from the Governor's office, Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES), Utah National Guard (UTNG), and several local law enforcement agencies to respond to simulated emergencies in Salt Lake City, Box Elder County and Cache Valley.

The exercise was part of the state's on-going deterrence management program and was intended to be highly visible. Blackhawk helicopters and armed National Guard troops responded in several locations to

protect critical infrastructure sites as part of the exercise. DES also used its automated call-down system to notify staff of the no-notice exercise and activated an alternate Emergency Operations Center.

“Training exercises such as these are an excellent opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the National Guard and other local agencies,” DES director Nannette Rolfe said. “This collaborative approach helps us assess our level of preparedness and increase our ability to protect the public from potential threats or emergencies.”

Timing for the Aug. 31 exercise was chosen carefully. Key state and UTNG leaders were out-of-town that morning, intentionally leaving second and third echelon leaders to take the helm. Governor Olene Walker was also out of the state that day, attending the Republican National Convention. Brig. Gen. Stanley Gordon, assistant adjutant general for the UTNG, was confident in the process.

“These kinds of exercises test our capabilities from A to Z so we can strengthen our weaknesses and build on our strengths,” Gordon said. “All that we do is under the direction of the Governor and Department of Public Safety. We act as one team, multilaterally, to protect the citizens of Utah and their livelihoods.”

To submit content for future issues, please e-mail Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security Public Information Officer Derek Jensen (derekjensen@utah.gov).